

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn): A nutritional composition comprising a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats and non-digestible oligosaccharides, associated with at least one microorganism, in an amount effective to induce a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding.

Claim 2 (withdrawn): A nutritional composition according to claim 1, comprising an effective amount of composition to ensure an optimal barrier function in infants and/or maintaining gut barrier homeostasis.

Claim 3 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein said microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacilli, Bifidobacteria, Streptococci, Pediococci, Enterococci, Lactococci, Oenococci, Staphylococci, Bacteroides, yeasts and mixtures thereof.

Claim 4 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the microorganism is selected from the group consisting of Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2170, Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2168, Bifidobacterium CNCM I-2169, Lactobacillus johnsonii CNCM I-1225, Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116, Bifidobacterium lactis ATCC 27536, Bifidobacterium longum BB536 and mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the non digestible oligosaccharides are selected from the group consisting of fructo-oligosaccharides, galacto-oligosaccharides, sialo-oligosaccharides, xylo-oligosaccharides, inulin, arabic gum, guar gum, resistant starch and milk-derived oligosaccharides.

Claim 6 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the specific fats are selected from the group consisting of lipids LC-PUFA, and gangliosides.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is ingestible carrier or support.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a complete diet, a supplement and a medicament.

Claim 9 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a low birth weight, a starter or a follow-up infant formula and a baby food.

Claim 10 (withdrawn): A method for maintaining gut barrier homeostasis comprising the steps of administering a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats and non digestible oligosaccharides, associated with a microorganism, to a mammal for maintaining gut barrier homeostasis after a physical or psychological stress.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method for inducing a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding comprising the steps of administering a combination of a least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats, or non-digestible oligosaccharides and combinations thereof, associated with a and at least one microorganism, to an infant inducing a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding.

Claim 12 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, comprising the steps of administering sufficient composition to ensure an optimal barrier function in infants.

Claim 13 (withdrawn): The method according to claim 10, comprising the steps of administering sufficient composition to reduce the risk of the infant developing allergy and infection.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the specific fats are selected from the group consisting of arachidonic acid (AA), docosahexanoic acid (DHA), and gangliosides contained in delactosed whey from buffalo milk.

Claim 16 (withdrawn): A composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is in a form selected from the group consisting of a pharmaceutical, a food, and pet food composition.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 11 further comprising the ~~steps-step~~ of ~~further~~ ensuring an optimal barrier function in infants.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method according to claim 11 further comprising the ~~steps-step~~ of ~~further~~ reducing the risk of developing allergy and infection.

Claim 19 (withdrawn): A method for producing a product intended for maintaining gut barrier homeostasis after physical or psychological stress comprising the steps of using a combination of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats or non digestible oligosaccharides, associated with a microorganism, for the preparation of the composition.

Claim 20 (withdrawn): A method for producing a product for inducing a pattern of gut barrier maturation similar to that observed with breast-feeding comprising the steps of using a combination of at least one substance selected from the group consisting of specific fats or non-digestible oligosaccharides, associated with a microorganism, for the preparation of the composition.